

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 046795

R 190929Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5198

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, TH, MOPS, XO

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON USE OF COCOS BY US RECONNAISSANCE
FLIGHTS

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS SHARED WITH US FOLLOWING
GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM CANBERRA FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO PRESS
QUERIES REGARDING RECENT REVELATIONS THAT US NAVAL INDIAN OCEAN
PATROL FLIGHTS STATE THROUGH COCOS.

BEGIN TEXT. AUSTRALIA ALLOWS THE AIRCRAFT OF SEVERAL FRIENDLY
GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE U.S., TO USE THE NON-MILITARY
AIRFIELD AT COCOS PERIODICALLY AS A STAGING POINT FOR RECONNAIS-
SANCE, TRAINING, AND SUPPLY FLIGHTS, IN THE SAME WAY THAT MOST
LITTORAL STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD PROVIDE STAGING
AND REFUELING FACILITIES FOR FRIENDLY FOREIGN MILITARY AIRCRAFT
TRANSITTING THEIR TERRITORY. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH AUSTRALIA'S
CONCERN FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TO
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PROVIDE A FACILITY WHICH HELPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE

RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE NEED FOR WHICH WOULD BE HEIGHTENED BY THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY. END TEXT.

2. FOR CANBERRA: WE ASSUME THIS WILL EMERGE AS AN ATTRIBUTED STATEMENT FROM GOA PRESS SPOKESMAN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE OFFICIAL TEXT FOR USE IN SUPPORTING OUR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY THAI REGARDING THEIR RECENT REQUEST THAT WE SUSPEND ALL SUCH FLIGHTS OUT OF THAI BASES.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE PLEASED BY RELATIVELY ROBUST STATEMENT FROM AUSTRALIANS WHOSE CREDENTIALS AS PROPONENTS OF IOZP AND CRITICS OF US ARE FAIRLY STRONG IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. IT WOULD SEEM TO US PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF THE AUSTRALIANS WOULD PRESENT THEIR VIEWS AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TO HEAD OFF ANY SNOWBALL EFFECT FROM THE ILL-CONCEIVED RTG ACTION.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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